

In response to that Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 127, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Please amend Claims 124 and 134 and add new Claims 135 and 136 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of the amended claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

124. (Amended) An outline forming apparatus, comprising:

a storage medium for storing information for a plurality of outline points of a pattern, wherein the information for at least one of the outline points includes a plurality of vector data corresponding to a plurality of weight value ranges, each of the vector data indicating a movement track of the outline point according to a change of a weight value within a corresponding weight value range, wherein the plurality of vector data and the corresponding weight value ranges are definable independently for each outline point, and

an acquiring unit, arranged for acquiring a vector datum corresponding to an input weight value, from said storage medium, for each outline point; and

a calculation unit, arranged for calculating coordinate data of each outline point of a pattern to be output, based on the input weight value and the vector data acquired by said acquiring unit.

72
134. (Amended) An outline forming method comprising the steps of:

storing information for a plurality of outline points of a pattern, wherein the information for at least one of the outline points includes a plurality of vector data corresponding to a plurality of weight value ranges, each of the vector data indicating a movement track of the outline point according to a change of a weight value within a corresponding weight value range, wherein the plurality of vector data and the corresponding weight value ranges are definable independently for each outline point, and acquiring a vector datum corresponding to an input weight value for each outline point; and

calculating coordinate data of each outline point of a pattern to be output, based on the input weight value and the vector data acquired in said acquiring step.

--135. (New) A computer program product having a computer readable medium comprising a computer program for forming an outline, the computer program comprising code for performing the steps of:

storing information for a plurality of outline points of a pattern, wherein the information for at least one of the outline points includes a plurality of vector data corresponding to a plurality of weight value ranges, each of the vector data indicating a movement track of the outline point according to a change of a weight value within a corresponding weight value range, wherein the plurality of vector data and the corresponding weight value ranges are definable independently for each outline point, and acquiring a vector datum corresponding to an input weight value for each outline point; and

calculating coordinate data of each outline point of a pattern to be output, based on the input weight value and the vector data acquired in said acquiring step.

136. (New) A computer readable medium comprising a computer program for forming an outline, the computer program comprising code for performing the steps of:

storing information for a plurality of outline points of a pattern, wherein the information for at least one of the outline points includes a plurality of vector data corresponding to a plurality of weight value ranges, each of the vector data indicating a movement track of the outline point according to a change of a weight value within a corresponding weight value range, wherein the plurality of vector data and the corresponding weight value ranges are definable independently for each outline point, and

acquiring a vector datum corresponding to an input weight value for each outline point; and

calculating coordinate data of each outline point of a pattern to be output, based on the input weight value and the vector data acquired in said acquiring step.--

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 11, 2001. Claims 124-136 are presented for examination. Claim 127 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Claims 124 and 134 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicant regards as the invention. New Claims 135 and 136 have been added to provide Applicant with a more